

FROM SIENA TO ROME

in Siena and elsewhere. Most of them were fasting perpetually, and only ate one meal in the day. Each week one of the women in turn did the housekeeping, so that the others might be free for their devotions, or for whatever other matters had brought them to Rome. Raimondo tells us that one day Giovanna di Capo, whose turn it was, had forgotten to provide any bread or to tell Catherine that there was none in the house, but that, when the starving *servi di Dio* sat down to table, it was miraculously multiplied, so that an abundance was afterwards given to the poor.¹ Catherine herself frequently went through the streets to beg for what they needed, but, for the most part, she was absorbed in pressing her spiritual counsels upon Urban, in dictating letter after letter on his behalf, and in her usual apostolic work among the poor.

And, in the meanwhile, men's minds on both sides were growing more and more embittered, as the rent in the seamless coat widened, and the clash of temporal arms began to be heard above the thunders of ecclesiastical fulminations. "If Christ, who is our peace," wrote Luigi Marsili from Paris, to Guido dal Palagio, "He who out of diverse unbelieving nations has formed and united one Church in His own blood, does not intervene, I fear that this evil beginning will have a worse sequence and the worst end; for men's wills are so discordant that they do not let their intellects freely consider the truth, and every day the one side gets further from the other. I am in a place where I can do nothing, save pray to God that He may make all those who are faithful to Him full of charity; for, without that, we can have no perfect concord."² Vague prophecies of the approaching end of the world began to spread abroad, and there was a strange revival of the doctrines of the Abbot Joachim, that had been forgotten for more than a century. Even Giovanni dalle Celle was inclined to these opinions. We find him writing to Guido dal Palagio that, although Christ would not reveal the end of

¹ *Legenda*, II. xi. 4-6 (§§ 301-303)-

^a Letter dated December 6, 1378, included in *Lettere del B. Giovanni dalle Celle*, p. 18.